

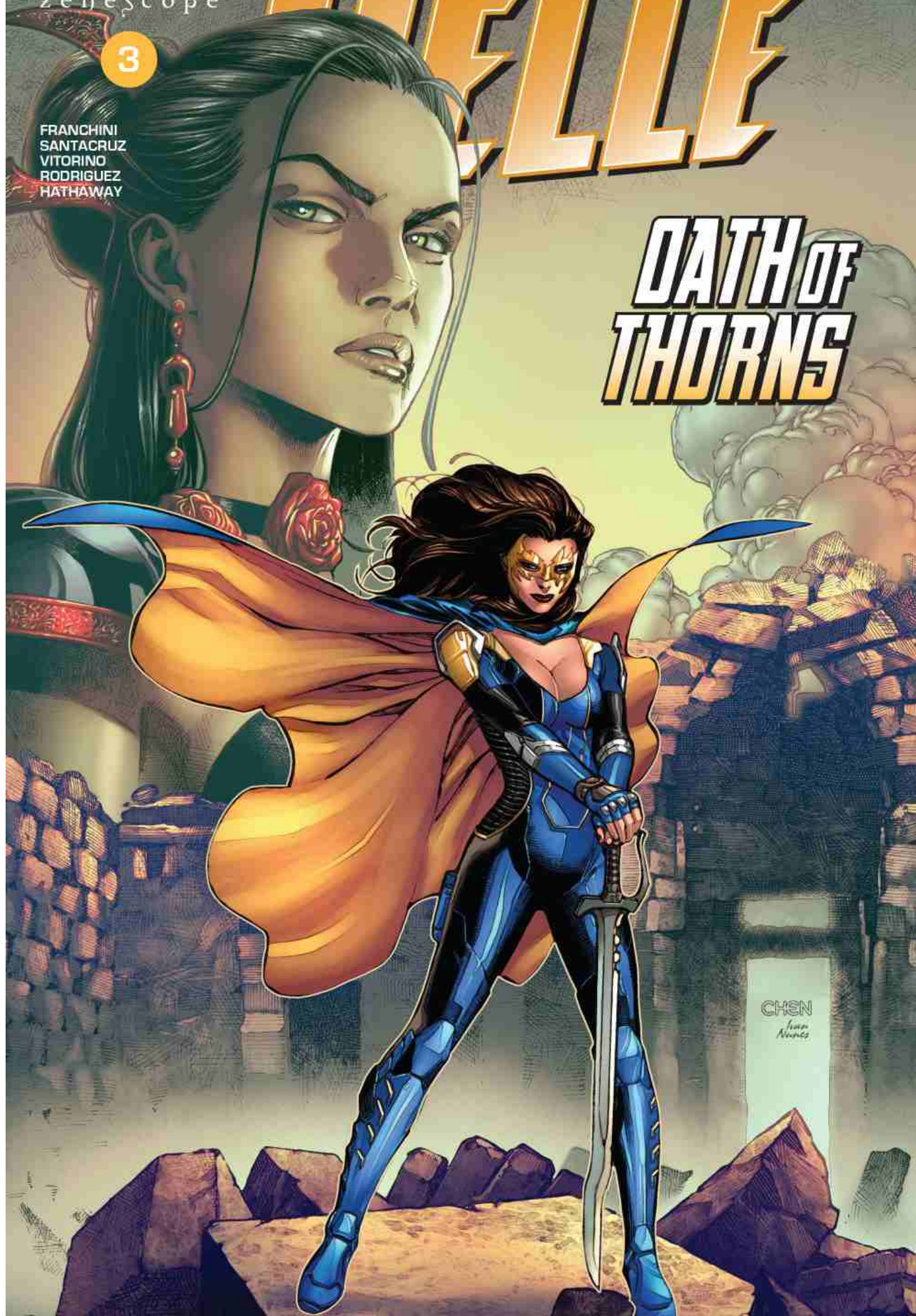
zenescope

3

FRANCHINI
SANTACRUZ
VITORINO
RODRIGUEZ
HATHAWAY

DELLA

OATH OF THORNS



Before.

Twenty years ago.

OH, YOU
ARE DEFINITELY
UGLIER THAN
THE LEGENDS
SAY.



A
HSSUNTTERR
TSHHHATT
FIGHTSSS
SWITH HSSER
WORDS.

SYOOU
ARE SSNOT
WORTHSSY.



NOT
WORTHY?

YEAH,
TELL THAT TO
ALL YOUR
CHILDREN I LEFT
LYING AROUND
HERE.



OKAY, SHE'S
PISSSED. NOT
GOOD...









SSWHAAT?
NOO WISSSTY
COMMENNTS?

--UNH!!



Hsss

Hss

I'LL GIVE
YOU SOME WITTY
COMMENTS.

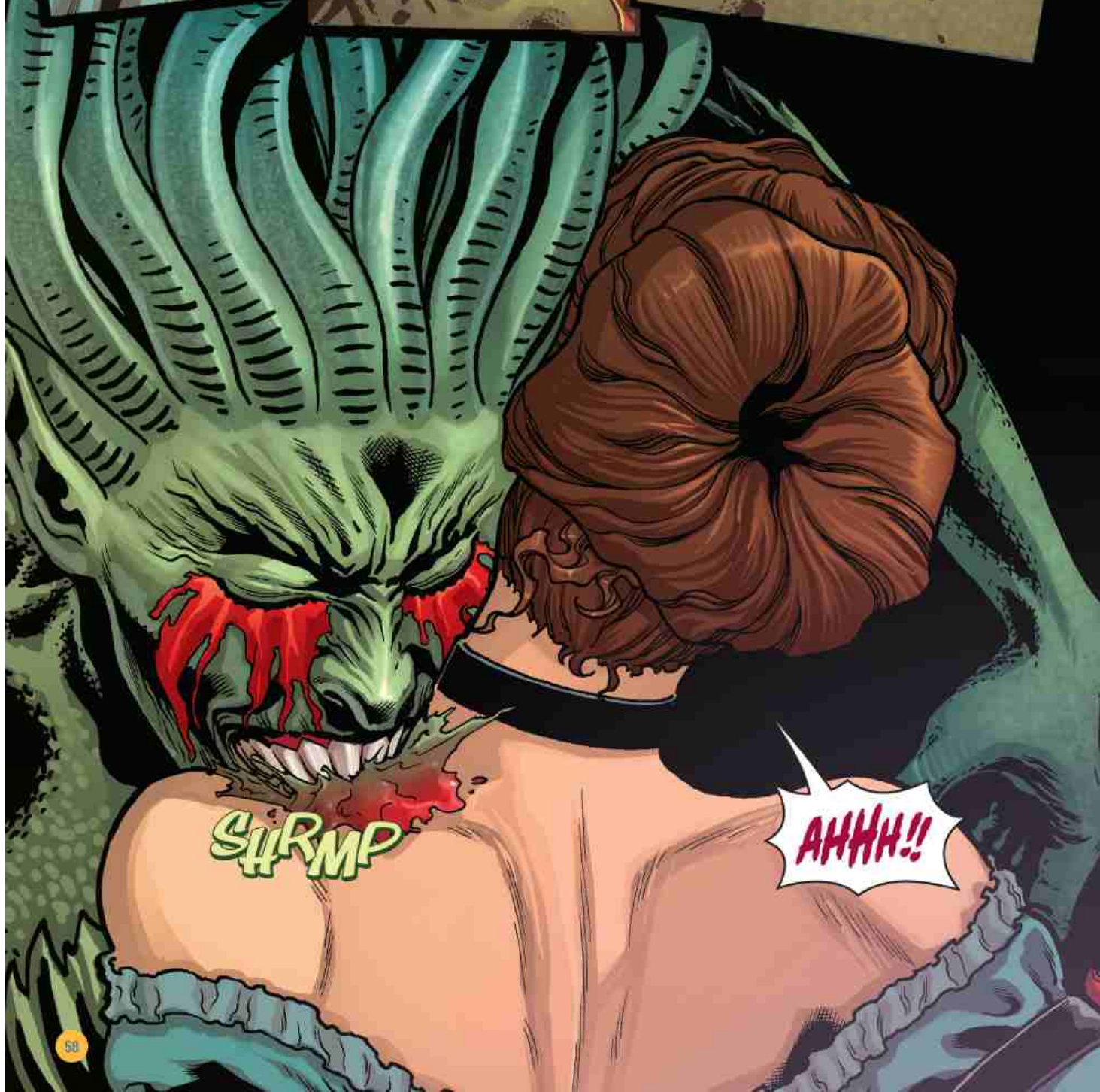
PUT ME DOWN,
AND I'LL GIVE YOU A WHOLE
DISSERTATION CARVED INTO
YOUR SCALY ASS!



MY FRIENDSS TELL
MEEE SYOUU ARREE
BEAUTIFULL

...ERH...
UNH!!

YOUUSS WILLLL
MAKKEE A LOVELLY
DECORASSTIONN.





SHRIIP

--UNHH



HSSSS



THAT WILL
BE ENOUGH,
CREATURE.



PA...PATRIC...
PATRICIA...



BRING ME
THAT BEAST
BACK.

ALIVE IF
POSSIBLE.

SHE HOLDS MANY
SECRETS, AND I HAVE MANY
QUESTIONS TO ASK.

PA...PATRICA...
HELP ME.



---UNH!

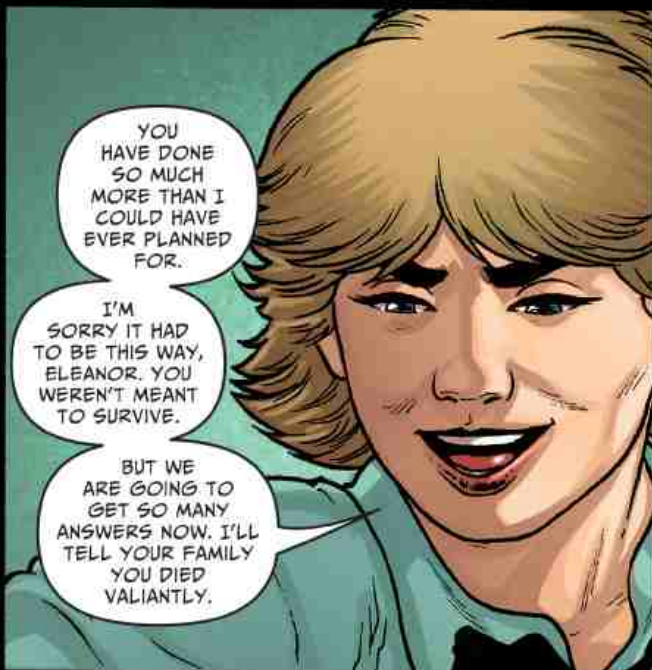
IT-IT
HURTS.



OH,
ELEANOR.

I'M
GOING TO HELP
YOU.

IT'S ONLY FAIR
SINCE YOU HAVE HELPED ME
SO MUCH ALREADY.



YOU
HAVE DONE
SO MUCH
MORE THAN I
COULD HAVE
EVER PLANNED
FOR.

I'M
SORRY IT HAD
TO BE THIS WAY,
ELEANOR. YOU
WEREN'T MEANT
TO SURVIVE.

BUT WE
ARE GOING TO
GET SO MANY
ANSWERS NOW. I'LL
TELL YOUR FAMILY
YOU DIED
VALIANTLY.



NOW, LET'S
SEE THAT BEAUTIFUL
FACE.

YOU DID
THIS...

...WHY?



HOW
LOVELY.

Now.

NO. THIS CAN'T BE REAL.
THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED
TO MY MOM. I DON'T
BELIEVE HER. I CAN'T.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE
ANY SENSE.

IF OTTS DID THAT
THEN...THEN...



NO. SHE'S LYING.

YOU'RE
LYING!



HEH
HEH HEH

ANNND
SWHYYY WOULLD I
LIEEE?

ISSS THEE
LITTLEEE SSHUNTTERR
UPSSSETT?



SHE'S RIGHT. I HATE HER, BUT SHE'S RIGHT. WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO GAIN FROM LYING.

I'M HERE, TRAPPED, SURROUNDED BY A BUNCH OF CREEPY-ASS MONSTER WOMEN AND SHE CAN KILL ME WHENEVER SHE WANTS.

WELL, AT LEAST THAT ANSWERS WHY MY MOM LOOKED DIFFERENT FROM MY CHILDHOOD. I GUESS MEDUSA DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO FULLY TURN HER. STILL DOESN'T MAKE ME HAPPIER ABOUT THE SITUATION.

NOWWW TO DESSCCIDEE WHAATT WEEE DO WITTSHH YOUUU.

WAIT!



WE SHARE THE SAME ENEMY. I THINK WE CAN MAKE A DEAL HERE.

IF YOU LET ME GO I CAN GO BACK AND KICK HER ASS FOR THE BOTH OF US.

HOW DOES THAT SOUND, OH QUEEN OF SLITHERS OR WHATEVER THEY CALL YOU AROUND HERE?

HEH HEH HEH

YOUU ARREE HUUMMOOROUSSS LIKE YOURRR MOTSSHERR



WELL, IT WAS WORTH A TRY.

YOUU WILL PAY FORRR HERR SSSSINNNESS.

THANKS, MOM.



YOUUU DOOO SSSHAAREE HER BEAAUUTYY.

UHM, THANKS? I'M NOT SURE HOW I SHOULD TAKE THAT FROM A BLIND WOMAN, BUT I GUESS ANY COMPLIMENT WORKS.



OHhh I DOOO NOTTTSSS
NEEDD MY
EEYESSS TO
SSSEEE.

THAT'S
GOOD TO
KNOW. NOW
IF SHE
COULD
STOP
BREATHING
ON ME LIFE
WOULD BE
BETTER.

JUST KILL ME
AND GET THIS OVER WITH.
I CAN'T KEEP PRETENDING
TO BE INTERESTED IN WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING.



KILL
YOUUU?

OHhh
NOO NOOO
NOOO.



YOUUU
MISSUNDER-
SSSTANDDD

WHAT THE HELL IS SHE
TALKING ABOUT?

WHY DO I GET THE
FEELING THIS IS GOING TO
GET SO MUCH WORSE?



I AMMM
NOOTT
SSGGGOINGG
TO KILL
SYOOOOUU.



YOUUU
AARREE
SSGGGOINGG
TO BEE
SJOINNINGG MY
SPAMMILLY.

YEAH. THIS IS
REALLY NOT GOOD.





"IT ALL STARTED THE NIGHT OUR POOR GIRL'S MOTHER DIED."

"BELLE WAS TEN, FAR TOO YOUNG TO BE ROBBED OF HER MOTHER."



"MY SISTER, WHOM YOU MET, WAS THE ONE WHO DELIVERED THE NEWS."

"THE FAMILY WAS HEARTBROKEN."



"I WAS HEARTBROKEN."

"YOU SEE, BELLE'S MOTHER, ELLIE, WAS HELPING OUT ON A MISSION FOR MY SISTER. IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR MY SISTER TO ASK FOR HELP, BUT ELLIE COULDN'T TURN DOWN A HUNT. IT WAS IN HER BLOOD."



"SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT SHE DIDN'T RETURN."

"AND MY SISTER, WELL, MY SISTER WAS AS COLD AS SHE ALWAYS IS AND VAGUE ON THE MISSION DETAILS."

LOUIS.

PATRICIA.

"THAT NEVER SAT WELL WITH ME."





"WEEKS WENT BY, AND MY SISTER WOULD CONTINUE TO CHECK IN.

"EVEN AGAINST MY PROTESTS.

"AS THE CHILDREN WENT ALONG CONSOLING EACH OTHER..."

HOW ARE THE CHILDREN ADAPTING?

THEY ARE FINE.



"...THEIR FATHER WAS HANDLING IT ALONE AND THE WORST OF US ALL."

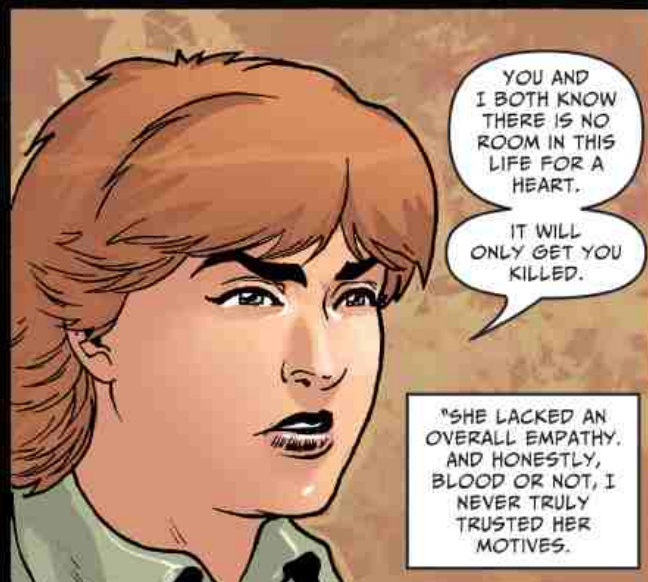
AND THE FATHER, I SEE, IS THE WEAK ONE.



PATRICIA, THE MAN JUST LOST HIS WIFE.

HAVE A HEART AND LET HIM GRIEVE.

"MY SISTER AND I NEVER REALLY SAW EYE-TO-EYE."



YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THERE IS NO ROOM IN THIS LIFE FOR A HEART.

IT WILL ONLY GET YOU KILLED.

"SHE LACKED AN OVERALL EMPATHY. AND HONESTLY, BLOOD OR NOT, I NEVER TRULY TRUSTED HER MOTIVES.

"SHE HAD A STRONG DESIRE TO TAKE BELLE AND ALEX INTO C.H.I.P. AND INTRODUCE THEM TO THE HUNT AT A YOUNG AGE."



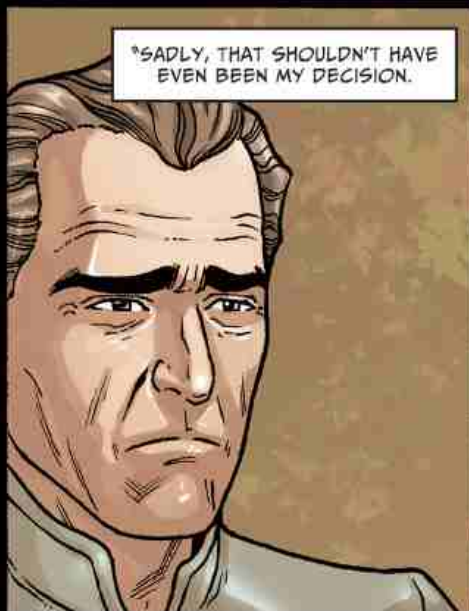
IT WAS GOOD SEEING YOU, LOUIS.

LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THE CHILDREN IN.

WE WILL MAKE WARRIORS OF THEM. IT'S IN THEIR BLOOD.

"THAT WASN'T GOING TO HAPPEN.

"I WAS NOT GOING TO LET IT. WELL, NOT THE WAY MY SISTER INTENDED IT.

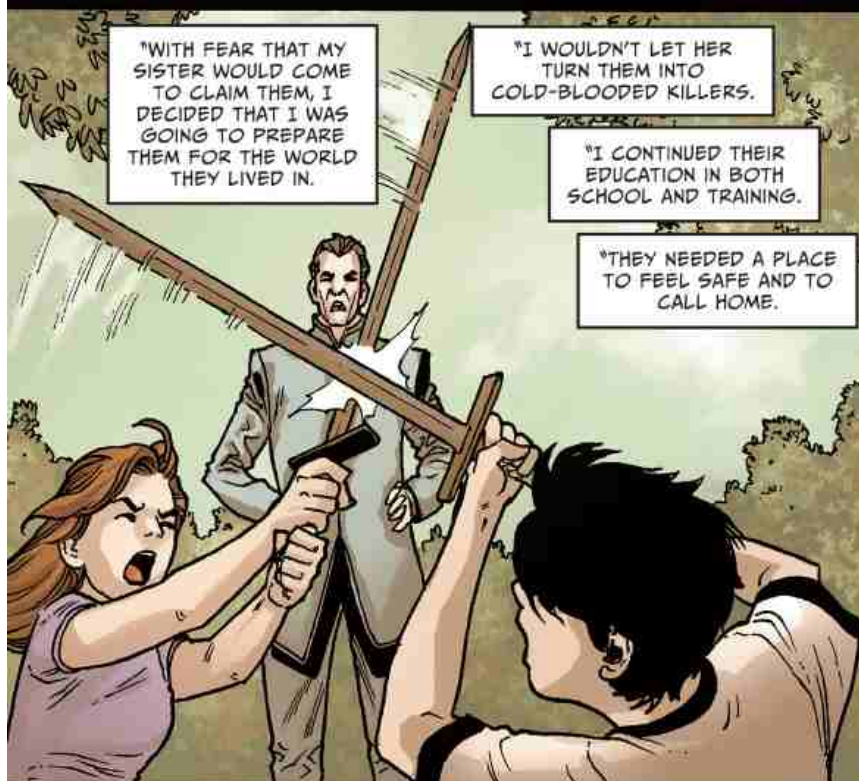


"SADLY, THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE EVEN BEEN MY DECISION."



"BUT AFTER THEIR FATHER LEFT AND CLEARLY MADE HIS CHOICE..."

"...I HAD TO MAKE MINE."



"WITH FEAR THAT MY SISTER WOULD COME TO CLAIM THEM, I DECIDED THAT I WAS GOING TO PREPARE THEM FOR THE WORLD THEY LIVED IN."

"I WOULDN'T LET HER TURN THEM INTO COLD-BLOODED KILLERS."

"I CONTINUED THEIR EDUCATION IN BOTH SCHOOL AND TRAINING."

"THEY NEEDED A PLACE TO FEEL SAFE AND TO CALL HOME."



"BUT EVEN I COULDN'T HOLD US TOGETHER."

"AFTER ALEX LEFT, BELLE DREW INTO HERSELF. SHE STUDIED LESS AND TRAINED HARDER."



"WHAT WE HAD WASN'T WORKING ANYMORE, AND I COULD SEE THAT WE BOTH NEEDED A CHANGE."

"THAT'S WHEN WE MOVED TO HER MOTHER'S FAMILY ESTATE."



"HER FATHER NEVER LIKED THE PLACE AND FELT THAT HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY."

"BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE A SAY, BEING THAT HE WASN'T AROUND."



"THAT'S AROUND THE TIME WE ENROLLED BELLE IN AN ACTUAL SCHOOL.

"WE, AS IN I, DECIDED SHE NEEDED TO BE AROUND KIDS HER OWN AGE.

"AND THAT'S WHERE SHE MET YOU.



"SHE WAS HAPPY AGAIN.

"WE BOTH WERE.



"OVER THE YEARS YOU TWO GREW CLOSER. AND YOU SHARED EVERYTHING.

"WELL, ALMOST EVERYTHING. WE ALSO HAD A DUTY TO UPHOLD.

"WE FOUGHT MANY TIMES ABOUT HER TELLING YOU AND THE DANGERS THAT IT COULD PLACE YOU IN.



"SHE WAS NEVER HAPPY WITH THE END OF THOSE ARGUMENTS.

"BUT SHE WAS FINALLY GOING TO HAVE HER WAY AND TELL YOU.

"I KNEW THAT.



"BUT BEFORE SHE COULD...



"...THE CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT LED US TO HERE OCCURRED.



"THE LAST THING I REMEMBER IS EVERYTHING CRUMBLING DOWN AROUND US..."



...AND I'M AFRAID THAT MIGHT HAVE ONLY BEEN THE BEGINNING. SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT HERE, AND WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT IS.

OY VEY. THAT IS A LOT TO TAKE IN.



NOW, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE FEELING OKAY?

YOU DID HAVE A BUILDING COLLAPSE ON YOU. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT OR TOOK A FEW TOO MANY TO THE HEAD?



MEL, YOU NEED TO TRUST ME.

MINE, YOURS, AND BELLE'S LIVES MIGHT DEPEND ON IT.



OKAY, OKAY. LET'S SAY I DO BELIEVE YOU.

EVEN IF YOU'RE WRONG, WHAT'S THE WORST CASE HERE? IT'S NOT LIKE THEY ARE GOING TO THROW US OVERBOARD, RIGHT?

RIGHT?



JUST COME A LITTLE CLOSER.

I NEED YOU TO REALLY LISTEN AS WE MIGHT ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT THIS.



GET ME
BETTER AUDIO IN
THERE.

I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT HE IS
SAYING TO HER.



MA'AM, WE
AREN'T ABLE TO PICK
UP MORE THAN WE ARE
RIGHT NOW.

YOU'RE
TELLING ME
WITH ALL THIS
ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY WE
CAN'T HEAR WHAT
A MAN IS
WHISPERING IN
A ROOM?

I-I AM...I'M
SORRY...

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF
THIS CHARADE
ANYWAY.



WE'RE
GOING IN
THERE.

COME
ON.



MA'AM,
HE'S ALONE IN
THE ROOM.

I
CAN SEE
THAT.

THAT SHOULDN'T
BE POSSIBLE. WE JUST
SAW HER HERE.



OH, HI,
PATRICIA.

YOU
ARE LOOKING
LOVELY
TODAY. I'M
DOING FINE,
THANKS FOR
ASKING.



I DON'T HAVE
TIME FOR YOUR
GAMES, LOUIS.

WHERE IS
SHE?



SEARCH
THE ROOM. FIND
HER.

OH,
MAN. WHY
COULDN'T
YOU JUST
HAVE BEEN
DELIRIOUS,
UNCLE
LOUIS.

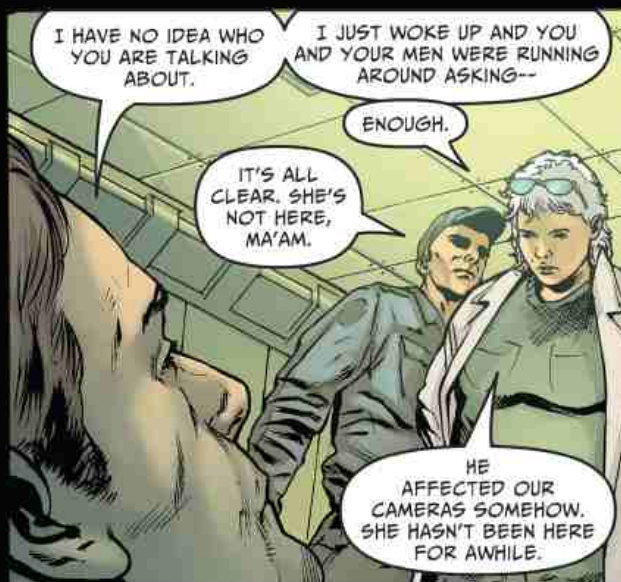


CAN
I HELP
YOU?

ARE YOU
LOOKING FOR
SOMEONE?



WHAT
DID YOU TELL
HER?



I HAVE NO IDEA WHO
YOU ARE TALKING
ABOUT.

I JUST WOKE UP AND YOU
AND YOUR MEN WERE RUNNING
AROUND ASKING--

ENOUGH.

IT'S ALL
CLEAR. SHE'S
NOT HERE,
MA'AM.

HE
AFFECTED OUR
CAMERAS SOMEHOW.
SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE
FOR AWHILE.



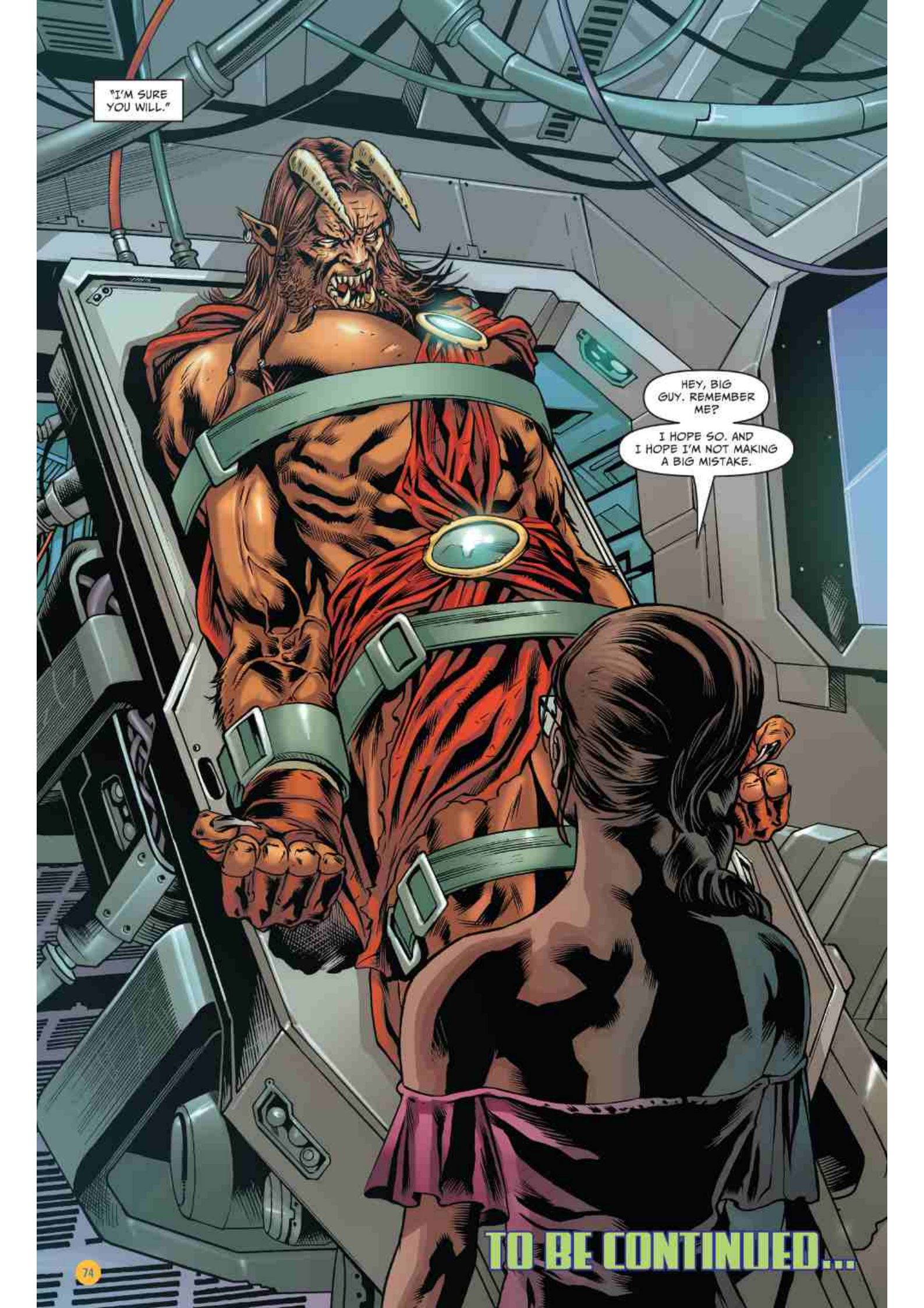
SOMEONE ON
THIS VESSEL IS HELPING
MY BROTHER.

HE
THINKS HE IS
CLEVER.

FIND THE GIRL.
THEN FIND ME OUR
TRAITOR.



I WILL FIND
OUT WHAT YOU TWO
ARE UP TO.



"I'M SURE
YOU WILL."

HEY, BIG
GUY. REMEMBER
ME?

I HOPE SO. AND
I HOPE I'M NOT MAKING
A BIG MISTAKE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

BELLE

OATH OF THORNS